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MEMPHIS APPEAL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1886.

GOOD MEN GIVING ALMS.

The success of the charity ball at the Peabody last night was a high tribute to the business men of Memphis, who, weary and tired after the day's labors, gave their money and their time to alleviate the sufferings of humanity. There was a large concourse of people present, considering the inclement weather, and it was not surprising that everybody was happy—happy in meeting each other socially, and still happier in the thought that they were contributing to the happiness of the suffering poor. The night was cold and bleak, and the drifting snow told of the sufferings in the hovels of poverty without fire, food or raiment which those present had met to alleviate. There was feasting and dancing—all were happy, because they were making others happy. There is nothing on earth more sublime than men and women meeting in social intercourse, regardless of wealth, for objects of charity. Mohammed was a false prophet, but he left behind him moral teachings which can be profitably studied and practiced even in this boasted era of civilization. The efforts to make the charity ball a grand success, called to mind one of his most beautiful allegories—an elegant tribute to the nobles of all virtues—charity. "When God created the earth," said Mohammed, "it trembled and shook until he put mountains upon it to make it firm. Then the angels asked, 'O God, is there anything of thy creation stronger than these mountains?' And he replied, 'Iron is stronger than the mountains for it breaks them.' 'And is there anything stronger than iron?' And the reply came back, 'Fire is stronger than iron for it melts it.' 'But is there anything stronger than fire?' 'Yes, water quenches fire.' 'Is there anything, O Lord, stronger than water?' And again the answer came, 'The winds, for they overcome water, and put it in motion.' 'But is there anything still stronger?' And the still small voice replied, 'Yes, a good man giving alms. If he gives with his right hand and conceal with his left, he shall overcome all things.' Every good act, said Mohammed, in applying this allegory, is charity. Even your smiling happily in your brother's face is charity. Your putting a wanderer on the right road is charity. Your removing stones and thorns from your brother's road is charity. Your whispering words of sympathy to the distressed, or pouring oil in the wounds of the maltreated, is charity. A man's true wealth, said the prophet, in conclusion, is the good he does in this world to his fellow men. When he dies the people will wonder—and how prophetic this is of even the afternoon of the nineteenth century—"what property has he left behind him?" But the angels who bend over his grave will ask, "what good deeds hast thou sent before thee?" Thus believing, the people of Memphis are striving to unlock the hearts of humanity and to perform deeds of benevolence and mercy. Our charitable societies are many, but the charity ball last night did more for the poor than either one of them has done for months. For the future charity balls will become an annual custom with the people of Memphis. As an army is divided into corps, divisions, brigades, regiments and companies, so should the great charity army be divided into separate organizations and associations, all marching under the same banner for the relief of suffering humanity.

HISMAK AND THE POLES.

The older readers of the Appeal can remember how, in their youth, all the civilized world was sympathizing with unhappy Poland, deprived of her nationality and her children oppressed and outraged by the tyrannical Russian government. A share of the territory of Poland was taken by Prussia, and to-day, at the latter end of the nineteenth century, Bismarck is undertaking to parallel to the fullest extent the abominable outrages Russia perpetrated in the earlier part of the century. The idea of Germany, the land of philosophy, of the profoundest thinkers of modern times, drawing upon itself the maledictions of Russia so well earned is atrocious and repulsive to the last degree. It is always considered the shame of modern religion that, in such sacred truths, its followers should violate those truths wholesale and without scruple. The philosophical nation that has so often and so well pointed out the inconsistencies and violations of its own teachings by the church, will it show to-day that it is no better, no less inconsistent, no less a violator of the truths it vindicates, by allowing its power to be wielded for oppression and to overwhelm with cruelty a people already heirs to sorrows so bitter and victims of wrongs so outrageous? The German Imperial Parliament, we are glad to say, has done itself the justice to protest against the wrong its government has resolved to perpetrate. After two days' debate, on January 18th, it adopted the following resolution: "The Reichstag resolves that the expulsions of Russian and Austrian subjects, ordered by the royal government of Prussia, appear without justification, both as regards their extent and manner of execution, such measures being incompatible with the interests of the subjects of the German empire." This vote of censure, direct as it is, only aroused ire on the part of the implacable and unscrupulous Bismarck, who declared that the Poles should be expatriated, be made exiles to find a shelter in any land but their own, that land should be tenanted by Germans. This defiance of public disapprobation and legislative censure went so far as to say that a vote of the Legislature, if the Polish members formed a part of the majority, would be disregarded by the government, which would proceed to expel the Poles all the same. This is saying that an end of the lash now applied to suffering Poland may yet reach the quivering flesh of the Germans who quaver to oppose an outrage, a cruelty and a crime. It is evidently time the German people began to think about the preservation of their own liberties. The New York Times draws a parallel between the sufferings of down-trodden Ireland and those of oppressed Poland. England is finding it necessary to retrace her steps and accord a measure of justice to Ireland, while Bismarck—with the full approbation of his sovereign, who is so liberal in the use of pious phrases—is just commencing toward Poland the policy formerly inaugurated by the relatives Cromwell among his victims in Ireland. To this day the Irishman when enraged calls down upon his opponent "the curse of Cromwell." Apparently the day is coming when, in the same way, "the curse of Bismarck" will be an oath on every Polish tongue. Bismarck's notion appears to be that it is the soil, not the people, that constitutes a State, and he is beginning the process of banishment that history shows has so completely failed in Ireland, and that will ever fail among a determined people, and the Poles have manifested that bravery and determination are immovable possessions of their souls. Bismarck is trying to bring backward. He is trying in the nineteenth century the policy and methods of past ages, driving a conquered people into exile. Is this the purpose for which he is seizing islands in the ocean and territory in Africa? Is this the way German colonies are to be established? Bismarck does not like to be outwitted in the Reichstag, especially by aid of Polish votes. What would have been thought of the English Ministry which has just been driven from power by Irish votes, if, instead of resigning, they had proposed to clear Ireland by banishing its people? What would be thought of one of our parties if it proposed to send the other into exile for voting against it? At this age, and with the lights now before the world, the policy proposed by Bismarck can only be regarded as monstrous, unbecoming a man, and as a cowardly outrage against a weak people impossible in a brave man. Let Bismarck carry out his unscrupulous, hateful policy, and the future history of Germany will blush, as it records his great services to his country, that his character was without generosity and his soul destitute of magnanimity.

MILLEAIMEE INTERVIEWED

A PLEASANT CHAT WITH THE CHARMING ARTISTE.

Dramatic Art in America and the Progress Made in Recent Years.

On her return from rehearsal, yesterday afternoon, an Appeal reporter sat up his card to Mlle. Aimee, a Parisian, at the New Gayoso, and requested an interview. The messenger quickly returned, and informed the reporter that mademoiselle would see him without delay if he would kindly follow the bearer of her message to her sitting-room. Here the famous artiste was found divesting herself of her wraps, and after pleasantly greeting the Appeal representative she invited him to a seat, and said: "I hear that you have been awaiting me some time. I trust not very long. I have just returned from the theater, where I have been engaged in rehearsing *Mam'zelle*. How can I serve you?" "The Appeal would be glad to have an interview with you on matters connected with the stage. May I trespass upon your time?" "I shall only be too happy if I can be of service to you in any way. Do you speak French?" inquired mademoiselle. "The reporter fortunately did." "Ah!" said mademoiselle, with a pleasant smile, "that is better; it will be all the more agreeable. I am not yet sufficiently familiar with the English language to speak it as fluently as may be necessary for the purposes of this interview." "How long were you learning the language?" "I replied the mademoiselle, with a merry laugh, "you will be surprised if I tell you that I only took lessons for a month from Mr. F. F. Mackay, in New York, before I ventured upon the stage in an English-speaking part, the part of 'Mam'zelle', which I play here to-night. The first time I undertook to play in French, I was only a few days in the city, and the rest of the play I only had a general idea. The dialogue was like Greek to me. Yet somehow I managed to pull through and make a success. You see, up to that time I had had no occasion to acquire the language. I was always surrounded by a French company, and spoke only French. It was only after I lost my voice, and the necessity for abandoning the operatic stage began staring me in the face, that the importance of studying English became manifest, and then I went at it with a will." "How many languages are you familiar with?" "Four," French, Spanish, Italian and English, if my limited knowledge of it can be described as familiarity. Italian, you know, is essential to a thorough study of operatic music." "Which language did you find the most difficult to acquire?" "Oh, English, of course, the others being of Latin origin and kindred to the French, I had less difficulty with them." "When did you make your debut in an English part?" "In September, 1884, at a little place in New York State called Rondout. I afterwards played at other places outside of New York, and then ventured to play it at the Fifth Avenue Theater, where I was kindly received. In fact, I may say I owe the American people a great debt of gratitude for uniform kindness. Even when I am not at my best, and through ill health or other depressing causes am unable to play up to the mark, I find my audiences full of indulgent forbearance. I have a warm place in my heart for America and Americans." "Do you people throughout the Union all impress you alike, or have you noted differences in temperament and manner?" "Oh, there is a marked difference. My preferences run to the South. In some northern cities I found my audiences cold and unimpassioned, notably in St. Louis and Cincinnati. In Chicago they were nothing but *disco*. I made my debut here in that play. In the South everything is different. The audiences seem to be more appreciative and more in sympathy with me, and more liberal with their applause. I always feel more at home when playing to them, more at my ease." "How did you like your reception last night?" "Immensely; how could it have been otherwise? They enjoyed all the humor of the play so keenly, and nothing seemed to escape them, even the finer shades of meaning that are expressed by a nod, a gesture, a look, were rapidly and intelligently interpreted. I have reason to feel warmly to Memphis for past kindnesses. Last year when I played here in *Mam'zelle* the weather was against me just as it is now," and Mlle. Aimee pointed to the snow-storm outside. "I remember a matinee when it rained down torrents, 'cats and dogs,' as the saying goes, and I was obliged to play in a wet dress. I have reason to feel warmly to Memphis for past kindnesses. Last year when I played here in *Mam'zelle* the weather was against me just as it is now," and Mlle. Aimee pointed to the snow-storm outside. "I remember a matinee when it rained down torrents, 'cats and dogs,' as the saying goes, and I was obliged to play in a wet dress. I have reason to feel warmly to Memphis for past kindnesses. 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